

COUNTY: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

SITE NAME: SPALFORD WARREN

DISTRICT: NEWARK

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Local Planning Authority: NEWARK DISTRICT COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: SK 833680

Area: 35.9 (ha.) 88.7 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 121

1:10,000: SK 86 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): –

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1985

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Reasons for Notification:

The site comprises the best remaining example of grassheath dominated by wavy hair-grass and sand sedge remaining in Nottinghamshire and is one of the few sites of this type to be found in the Midlands.

Biology

A remarkable inland example of grass heath dominated by tussocks of wavy hair-grass *Deschampsia flexuosa* and sand sedge *Carex arenaria* developed on soils derived from post-glacial blown sands. Although parts of the site have been planted with conifers, substantial areas of the original grassheath remain. Patches of heather *Calluna vulgaris*, gorse *Ulex europaeus*, broom *Sarothamnus scoparius* and bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* occur within the grassheath while in the shorter turf adjacent to the paths and boundary roads herbs characteristic of sand-land habitat such as slender trefoil *Trifolium micranthum*, birdsfoot *Ornithopus perpusillus*, field mouse-ear *Cerastium arvense* and shepherd's cress *Teesdalia nudicaulis* occur. This vegetation type, which has affinities with certain of the Breckland grassheaths, is of very restricted inland occurrence.